



*Always Ready  
Always There*

# *The Gem State Guardian*

The official newsletter of the  
**Idaho National Guard**

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## **OCTC Fire & Emergency responds to first two emergencies**

By Lt. Col. Dan Johnson

The Orchard Combat Training Center Fire and Emergency Services station responded to its first two incidents July 23 in support of the Idaho Transportation Department

Through an Automatic Aid Agreement recently signed by Maj. Gen. Gary Sayler, Commanding General of the Idaho National Guard, emergency crews at the OCTC fire station were able to respond to their first two calls; both occurring on the same day, to come to the aid of Idaho citizens.

At approximately 1:15 p.m., Ada County dispatch contacted the OCTC Fire and Emergency Services dispatch with a report of an accident at milepost 64. The OCTC F & ES crew responded by assisting Boise City firefighters and Ada County paramedics in the extraction of two victims from the rollover accident. Life flight was contacted before Boise Fire Paramedics determined to ground transport the victims.

Idaho National Guard Soldiers and Airmen assisted in the preparation of transporting the patients. Interaction between the different response agencies was greatly welcomed and appreciated.

One of the more severely injured victims referred to Pfc. Paul Benedict, a junior member on the fire fighting team from the 937<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment, as her hero.

Later that day, Ada County dispatch contacted the OCTC again with a report of another rollover accident at milepost 71.

The OCTC crew established control and security at the scene to direct traffic stopped by the vehicle lying on its roof in the middle of the interstate.



Two cars lie along Interstate 84 after a vehicle rollover near milepost 70. Orchard Combat Training Center Fire and Emergency crews responded to two emergencies on July 23. Through an Automatic Aid Agreement, OCTC response crews are now authorized to assist in emergency operations in the area. Photo Courtesy of OCTC Staff

The fire fighters ensured all victims were free from the wreckage and in stable condition. Once medical personnel arrived, they assisted in preparing the injured for transportation and coordinated for the removal of the vehicle.

Due to their quick response, the impact on I-84 was minimized to 45 minutes and more importantly, lessened the victims' wait for emergency responders by a full 15 minutes; an eternity when suspended upside down in a vehicle.

Organized in October 2013, this dedicated group of Soldiers and Airmen joined the brotherhood of effective rapid attack responders for both the training site and now, the citizens driving on Interstate 84.

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